Study Report of Nucaer on Oilseeds

*254. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minster of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Council of Applied Economic Research has warned that the self-sufficiency achieved under TMO could be jeopardised unless R&D programme was launched to raise oilseeds output;

(b) if so, what were the main reasons put forward by the NCAER in its study report;

(c) whether Government have examined the study report of the NCAER; and

(d) if so, what steps are being considered by Government?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) to (d) technology Mission on Oilseeds & Pulses (TMOP) has neither assigned any study to National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) on Oilseeds nor has the NCAER conducted any specific project on the oilseeds. However, a paper published in the Political and Economic Weekly of March 30, 1996 written by authors working in the NCAER has come to the notice of the Government. To authors has inter alia suggested Research & Development to augment yield of oilseeds as also upgrade the technology of processing including exploring the possibility of introducing new oil crops that can give a higher quantity of oil per unit of land, for example, oilpalm.

The authors have mentioned that primarily increase in oilseeds production is due to the increase in area and higher relative prices for oilseeds.

The Government do not entirely agree with opinion of the authors because productivity of oilseeds has increased from 570 kgs./ha. in 1985-86 to 848 kgs/ ha. in 1994-95 an as such the oilseeds production has gone up on account of increase in area, higher productivity on account of Research & Development efforts and remunerative prices to the farmers.

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research as a part of this R&D programme has already launched All India Coordinated Research Projects on Oilseeds and evolved better varieties of seeds and better production technology. The Government has promoted R&D in the post harvest and processing technologies through the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research. The Government is also promoting oil palm cultivation in the country.

Ordering of Wagons

*255. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that orders for wagons were placed on certain companies even though they did not meet the stipulated specifications and were unapproved suppliers;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the amount of the contract involved; and

(c) the reasons which weighed with Government to place orders on unapproved companies which did not meet the requisite specifications?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) and (b) There is no system of approved suppliers for wagons. During 1995-96 three developmental orders were placed on firms who are not regular suppliers of wagons viz., M/s. Sri Ranga, Coimbatore for 200 BOXN wagon, on M/s. BESCO Ltd., Calcutta for 400 BOXN wagon and on M/s. Titagarh Steel Ltd., Calcutta for 200 BOXN wagons. The values of contracts are Rs. 13.43 crores, Rs. 26.86 crores and Rs. 13.43 crores respectively, the total value being Rs. 53.72 crores.

(c) These developmental orders were placed with a view to develop additional sources to meet increasing requirement of wagons. Developmental orders, by its very nature are placed on firms who have not manufactured the items so far. Such firms may not also be expected to conform ab-initio to the specification—laying down facilities required for manufacture of wagon, in—toto.

Hormone mixed injections

*256. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to certain observations made by D.A.V. Research Society for Health regarding milking of cows/ buffaloes after giving hormone mixed injections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these observations also indicate that some quantity of 'Oxitocin' medicine passes into milk which starts poisoning gradually;

(d) whether government propose to take any action on these observations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes Sir. The Government is aware of the news items published in Nav Bharat Times.

(b) Oxytocin is sometimes used in cows and buffaloes which suffar from let down problem. In such situation, animal's own oxytocin is not released in the circulation. As mentioned in the news that oxytocin treated animals suffer from heart disease, weak uterus and death of foetus in the womb, is not correct because pregnant uterus is well protected against the harmful effects of oxytocin. Moreover, I.C.A.R.'s research studies have never observed any such effect.

(c) Oxytocin is fast eliminated (its half life is about 1.5 minute only) from circulation and is also utilised by the mammary gland for let-down of milk. Moreover, being a peptide harmone, it cannot directly pass from the blood to the milk.

(d) and (e) Question does not arise.

Delay in the clearance of developmental projects

*257. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minster of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of developmental projects are held up for want of the environmental and forestry clearance from the Central authorities causing significant cost/time escalation, particularly, in the States of Rajasthan and Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and project-wise, till the 30th June, 1996;

(c) since when each of these projects are pending and the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government have taken so far to streamline the present system/ procedure so as to make it more efficient and speedy, with details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD): (a) to (c) A statement is annexed. (*See* below)

(d) The Government has already taken steps for speedy clearance of projects. Final decisions on project proposals are taken within a stipulated time of 90 days and communicated to the proponents within 30 days thereafter from the date of receipt of complete information and other relevant details asked for from the project proponents.